

# Geospatial Technology Education (GeoTEd) - Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in Virginia's Community Colleges



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Virginia Geospatial  
Extension Program



Mountain Empire  
Community College



# Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC)

- NASA National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program (1989)
- STEM Education, Workforce Development, Research, and Outreach
- Recruit and train U.S. Citizens, especially women, underrepresented minorities and persons with disabilities, for careers in STEM
- Mary Sandy, Director ([msandy@odu.edu](mailto:msandy@odu.edu))
- ODU is host institution. Office in Peninsula Workforce Development Center, Hampton



# **VSGC Member Institutions**

**College of William and Mary**

**Hampton University**

**Old Dominion University**

**University of Virginia**

**Virginia Tech**

**NASA Langley Research Center**

**NASA Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility**

**State Council of Higher Education for Virginia**

**Virginia Community College System**

**Virginia Department of Education**

**MathScience Innovation Center**

**Science Museum of Virginia**

**Virginia Air and Space Center**

**Center for Innovative Technology**

# Geospatial Technology Initiatives

## 3 NSF-Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Awards

Goal: Increase Number of Trained GIS Technicians

### 1. NSF Planning Project (2007)

- Statewide Workforce Needs survey; DACUM to define GIS Technician

### 2. Statewide Project Grant (2009-12)

### 3. GeoTEd (2012-16) – Regional Project

- GIS Courses and Pathways; Faculty and Teacher Professional Development; Mentoring; GIS Webportal; Mobile App
- Integration of UAS



NSF ATE  
DUE-  
0903270;  
1205110



# Geospatial Technology Resources



[Home](#) » VCCS Geospatial Institute - Summer 2015

## VCCS Geospatial Institute - Summer 2015

[2015 Institute](#) [2014 Institute](#) [2013 Institute](#) [2011 Institute](#) [2010 Institute](#)

### VCCS Geospatial Institute - Summer 2015

**June 22 - June 24, 2015**

Cheatham Hall  
Dept. of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia

Hosted by  
the Virginia Geospatial Extension Program at Virginia Tech, Thomas Nelson Community College, Southwest Virginia Community Consortium

Provide us with comments, suggestions, testimonials, and more via the [Virtual Suggestion Box \(link is external\)](#)

#### Instructional Resources from the 2015 GeoTEd Institute:

- [Handouts \(.pdf's\) \(link is external\)](#)

## VCCS Geospatial Institute - Summer 2014

[2015 Institute](#) [2014 Institute](#) [2013 Institute](#) [2011 Institute](#) [2010 Institute](#)

### VCCS Geospatial Institute - Summer 2014

**May 31 - June 6, 2014**

Micro Lab and CEARS Lab, 2nd Floor Cheatham Hall  
Dept. of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia

Hosted by  
the Virginia Geospatial Extension Program at Virginia Tech, Virginia Western Community College, Thomas Nelson Community College, Southwest Virginia Space Grant Consortium

Provide us with comments, suggestions, testimonials, and more via the [Virtual Suggestion Box](#)

#### Instructional Resources from the 2014 GeoTEd Institute:

- [Handouts \(.pdf's\)](#)
- [Data for exercises](#)
- [PowerPoint Presentations](#)

#### Map & Compass Resources

- [US Orienteering](#)
- [NOAA Magnetic Declination](#)

#### Data Sources

- [National Map Viewer](#): View and download Geographic data (elevation, topo, many others) for any area of the US
- [National Map Program](#): Information and metadata for National Map products
- [VDEP](#): Virginia Economic Development Program GIS Data Resources page

#### Collector & Geospatial Apps

- [Collector Resources](#): tutorials and videos
- [GPS Kit](#)
- [Trimble Outdoors](#)

# GeoTEd.org

# Geospatial Technician Education Unmanned Aircraft Systems (GeoTEd-UAS)

- Three-year NSF ATE project proposal. In final negotiation for award (still pending).

**“In Virginia....Looking Down is  
Looking Up!”**



**GeoEd**  
geoted.org



## Other Partners

- Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP)
- NASA Langley
- NASA Wallops
- Hampton Roads Chapter of AUVSI
- GeoTech National Center
- SpaceTec
- Flirtey
- Timmons
- Sentinel Robotic Solutions
- AirSight Global
- Nexutech
- Esri
- Jack Kennedy
- Northland Technical College
- Environmental Monitoring Incorporated
- University of Virginia



(GeoTEd-UAS)

Focus on 'UAS Operations Technician'

**Mission Planning**

**Flight Operations**

**Data Collection**

**Data Post-Processing**

**Data Analysis Using GIS**

**CyberSecurity Awareness**

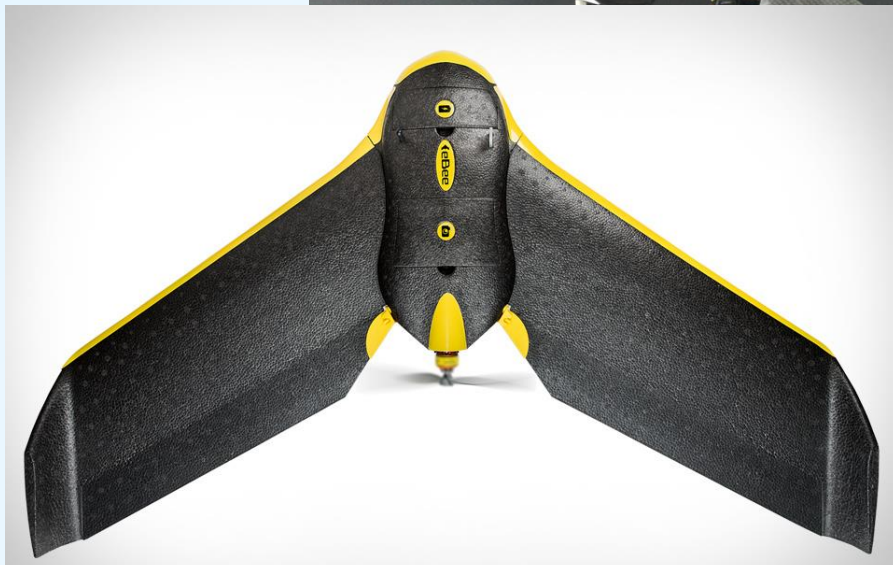
Not Just a Pilot or a Maintenance Technician





(GeoTEd-UAS)

Focus on small UAS (<55lbs)  
and micro UAS (<4.4lbs)





(GeoTEd-UAS)

# 1. Workforce Demand and Defining Competencies of a UAS Operations Technician

- Developing a Curriculum (DACUM) Panel
- Alignment with ASPRS Certification – UAS Technologist (in development)

## DACUM Research Chart for GIS Technician

### DACUM Panel

Jason Braunstein, GIS Program Manager  
VA Department of Forestry  
Charlottesville, VA

Lenée Pennington, GIS  
Specialist/Cartographer/Crime Analyst  
VA Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries  
Richmond, VA

Michael Nichols, Assistant Director  
R&K Solutions Inc.  
Roanoke, VA

Allison Johnson, GIS Manager  
City of Lynchburg  
Lynchburg, VA

Katherine Smith, GIS Coordinator  
Town of Blacksburg  
Blacksburg, VA

Michael Kolonay, GIS Manager  
& Developer, VEDP

Sponsored by:



# DACUM Research Chart for ~~GIS Technician~~ A UAS Operations Technician

## Specific employment tasks

General employment duties →

A	Manage GIS Data	A-1 Obtain data sets *	A-2 Update versioned data	A-3 Update non versioned data	A-4 Perform QA/QC on GIS data	A-5 Update metadata	A-6 Perform backup of GIS data	A-7 Update data inventory	A-8 Report GIS data changes
	Create GIS Data	B-1 Create data schema	B-2 Collect field data	B-3 Digitize spatial features	B-4 Georeference spatial data	B-5 Geocode spatial data	B-6 Process raster data	B-7 Enter survey data (e.g. GO)	B-8 Convert data across formats (e.g. CADD, KML, CSV, Excel, DBF)
C	Create Static Maps	C-1 Collaborate with stakeholders *	C-2 Determine Purpose of map	C-3 Identify specific data sets for map	C-4 Prepare cartographic data sets	C-5 Determine type of layout for map	C-6 Design map layout	C-7 Design map template	C-8 Modify existing map document
		C-13 Document customer communication	C-14 Publish static maps	C-15 Print hard copy maps					
D	Create Dynamic Maps/applications	D-1 Determine purpose of application	D-2 Identify data sets for application	D-3 Prepare cartographic data sets for application	D-4 Determine type of layout for application	D-5 Design custom application layout	D-6 Modify existing application	D-7 Follow required design specs for application	D-8 Determine application scales
E	Analyze GIS Data	E-1 Define reason for analysis	E-2 Determine feasibility of analysis	E-3 Outline analysis process	E-4 Identify data sets	E-5 Identify analysis tools	E-6 Determine analysis parameters (e.g. extent, cell size, filters, relationships)	E-7 Create project workspace	E-8 Prepare data sets
F	Support Internal/external Customers	F-1 Process customer requests	F-2 Deliver product to customer	F-3 Develop map resources (e.g. symbols, sets, templates, logos)	F-4 Compile training materials	F-5 Provide GIS training	F-6 Provide equipment training (e.g. GPS, plotter, scanner)	F-7 Troubleshoot data issues	F-8 Troubleshoot software issues
G	Maintain Hardware/software Systems	G-1 Initiate IT tickets	G-2 Install software	G-3 Install software updates	G-4 Update firmware	G-5 Apply software patches	G-6 Maintain software and equipment inventory	G-7 Change out equipment	
H	Perform Administrative Tasks	H-1 Maintain supply inventory	H-2 Submit timesheet	H-3 Submit travel requests	H-4 Submit expense reports (e.g. travel, procurement)	H-5 Archive projects	H-6 Facilitate meetings (e.g. webinar, phone conf., in-person)	H-7 Create purchase requests	H-8 Manage paper files
I	Maintain Professional Knowledge	I-1 Develop personal training plan	I-2 Participate in training activities (e.g. online course, in person sessions)	I-3 Attend professional conferences	I-4 Present at GIS events	I-5 Represent organization at community events	I-6 Review trade publications	I-7 Maintain professional memberships	

\*Task is performed across more than one duty





(GeoTEd-UAS)

## 2. Academic Course and Pathway Development

- Career Studies Certificate – UAS Operations Technician (18+credit hour) (Model for the VCCS) (Flexible)

### Potential Courses

**UAS I and II**

**GIS 200 and 201**

**Introduction to Remote Sensing**

**Pilot Ground School**

**Interdisciplinary; Service Learning; Communication**





(GeoTEd-UAS)

### 3. Faculty Professional Development

- Train the Trainer (Summer 2016)
- GeoTEd-UAS Train AND Mentor Community College Faculty



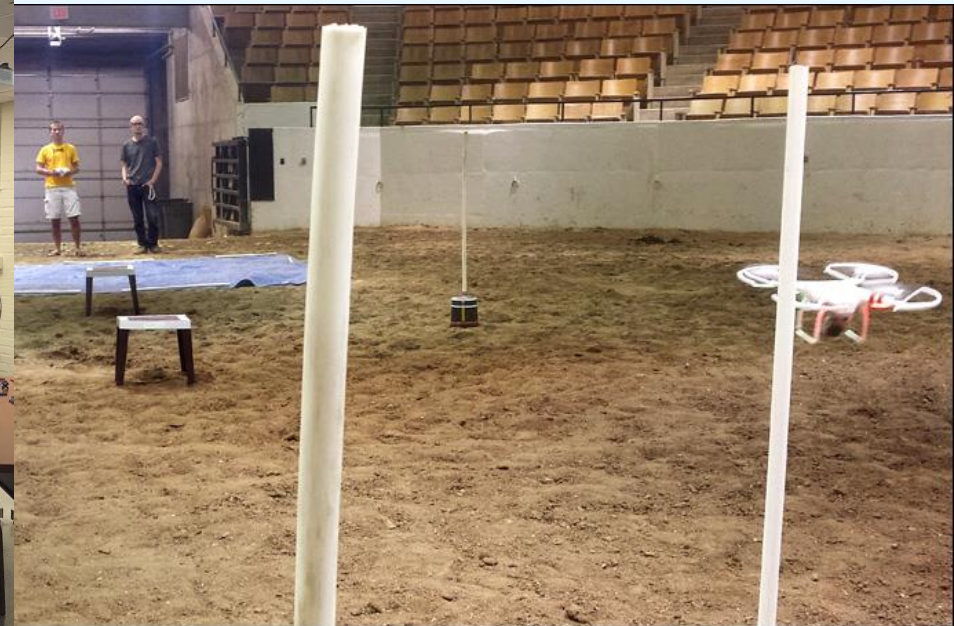




(GeoTEd-UAS)

#### 4. Student Pipeline into UAS Careers

- Regional High School UAS Expos and Competitions
- Dual-Enrollment, Transfer, and Articulation Agreements





(GeoTEd-UAS)

Thomas Nelson Community College (Hampton/Williamsburg)

- Integration of UAS into GIS Courses
- Rules and Regulations, Sensors, Image Processing, GIS Analysis
- Partnerships with NASA Langley and Others
- Faculty Experience





(GeoTEd-UAS)

## Mountain Empire Community College (Big Stone Gap)

- Avionic and Aviation Mechanics 195-Topics in UAS
- Hands-on introduction to UAS with a specific focus on quadcopters
- Offering Online Ground School
- Faculty Experience





# GIS 295 – Topics in Service Learning GIS Course

## Fieldwork at NASA Wallops Island



**STEM TAKES FLIGHT**  
at Virginia's Community Colleges

### SERVICE LEARNING COURSE OPPORTUNITY AT NASA WALLOPS ISLAND

#### HELP NASA INVESTIGATE SEA LEVEL RISE AND INVASIVE SPECIES

Thomas Nelson Community College is offering a three-credit Sea Level Rise Service Learning course. All expenses paid for course tuition and four days of fieldwork including travel, lodging, and food! Open to Virginia community college. Competitive application process, students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Sponsored by Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) and offered through the STEM Takes Flight Program in partnership with NASA Wallops Flight Facility and Thomas Nelson Community College.

#### GIS 295 - Topics in Service Learning in GIS.

This online course contains four days of outdoor fieldwork at NASA Wallops on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Field work will likely be completed over a weekend (Thursday-Sunday) in April 2016.

Faculty-led student teams will engage with NASA scientists to tackle the issue of sea level rise, invasive species and their impact on coastal communities and ecosystems including NASA Wallops. Using GIS, global positioning system (GPS), unmanned aircraft systems, and other technologies students will model various sea level rise scenarios and gauge their impacts to NASA infrastructure and habitats. Students will compare data with existing datasets and develop a report to be presented to NASA staff.

Application: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9HXDL88>

Application Due Date: December 1, 2015

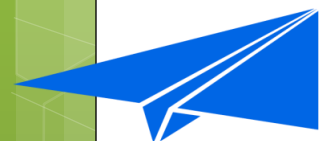
Notification of acceptance by December 5

<http://www.vsgc.odu.edu/STEMtakesFlight/sealevelrise.html>



#### During the course you will

- Learn about service learning.
- How to use and operate an Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) to collect data
- Develop or acquire geographic information system GIS skills in analyzing data collected with a UAS. (Prior GIS knowledge is not a pre-requisite for this cross-discipline course)
- Learn about remote sensing and how to use regular imagery, near infrared imagery and Lidar to answer questions using a GIS.
- Help NASA solve a problem, work side-by-side with NASA scientists
- Gain real world experience collecting and analyzing data
- Tour the facilities and observe the research being completed at the site.



**STEM TAKES FLIGHT**  
at Virginia's Community Colleges





# STEM TAKES FLIGHT

at Virginia's Community Colleges



- **3-Credit Online Course Developed and Offered by Thomas Nelson Community College**
- **Co-Developed with David Webb, GeoTEd Consultant**
- **Funded by VSGC Through the STEM Takes Flight Program**
- **Offered to 14 Students Attending 6 Different Community Colleges**



Content: GIS; Remote Sensing; UAS

Support WFF's Coastal Resilience Initiative

Fieldwork: Sea Level Rise and Phragmites



# **STEM TAKES FLIGHT**

at Virginia's Community Colleges



## **WIN-WIN!**

- **Benefits for Students**

- Real-world experience with UAS, instruments, GIS, LiDAR and near-IR data

- **Benefits for NASA**

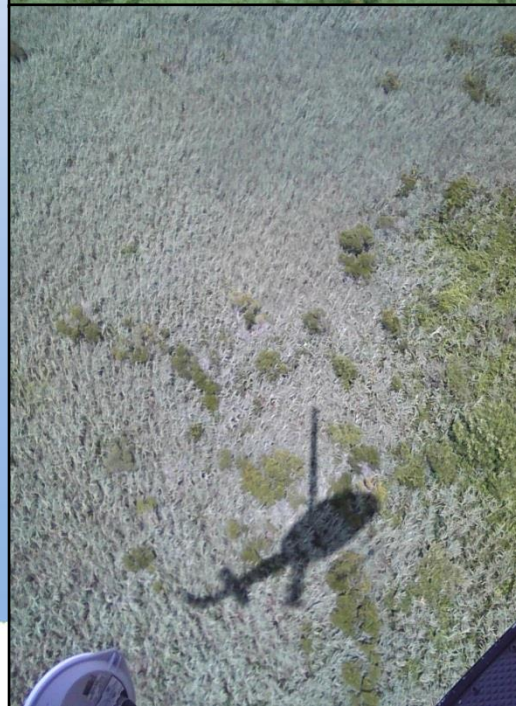
- Updated LiDAR data (digital elevation model) and shoreline data
- Baseline data for future UAV LiDAR
- Improved mapping of invasive (Phragmites) marsh vegetation







# Phragmites





## Fly Phantom 2 and Phantom 3 Missions

- True color, near infrared (NIR), and Lidar data
- Students analyze data for invasive species locations and shoreline determination
- Students complete ground truthing of the data
- Final products: georeferenced map layers, DEM, true color, lidar and NIR data. Written report to NASA.
- Fly Missions on April 6-8, 2016





**STEM TAKES FLIGHT**

at Virginia's Community Colleges

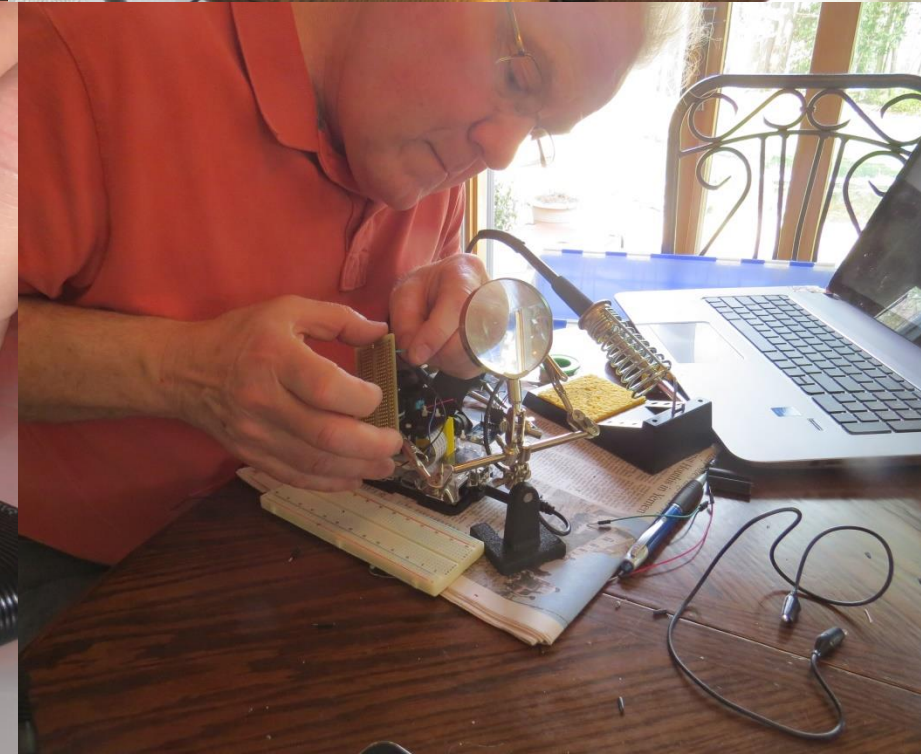
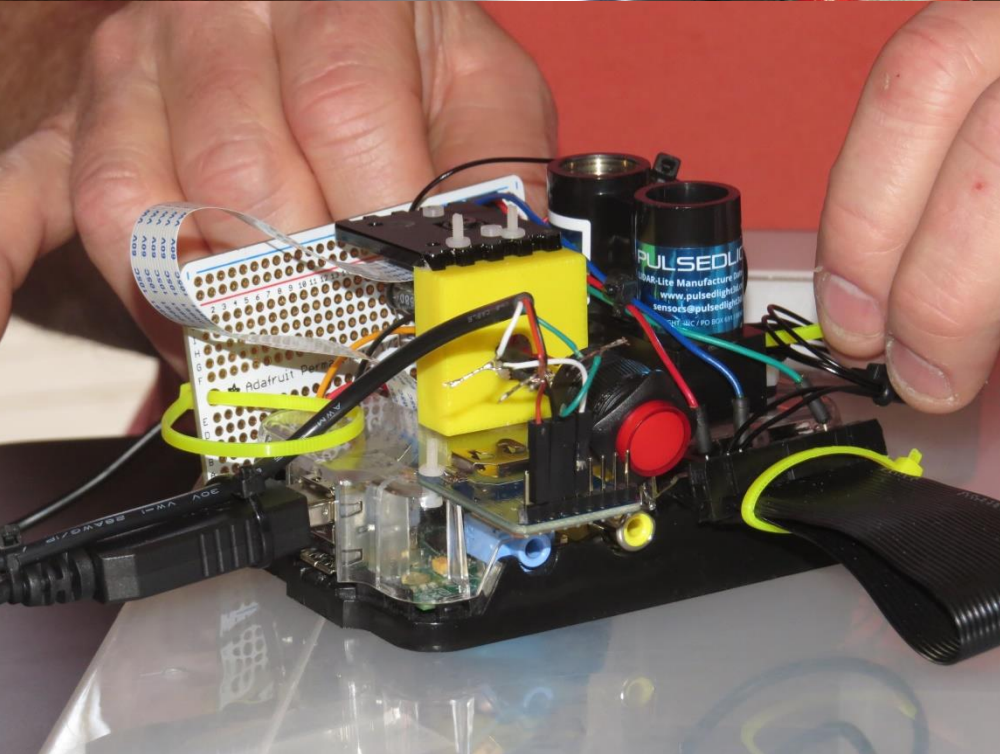
# Phantom 2 and 3

Equipped With:

- **Computer:** Raspberry Pi Model B 512MB
- **NIR camera:** Raspberry Pi NoIR Camera Board - Infrared-sensitive Camera
- **Regular RGB camera:** Raspberry Pi Camera Board
- **Near IR Camera Two:** Infragram DIY Plant Analysis Webcam
- **Lidar:** LIDAR-Lite v2

**Software:** DroneDeploy







# GeoTED-UAS Team

- Dr. John McGee, Virginia Geospatial Extension Specialist, Virginia Tech, [jmcg@vt.edu](mailto:jmcg@vt.edu) , 540.231.2428
- David Webb, GeoTEd Consultant (Former Community College Faculty), [davidewebb@outlook.com](mailto:davidewebb@outlook.com)
- Cherie Aukland, Associate Professor of IST and Program Head for GIS, Thomas Nelson Community College, [auklandc@tncc.edu](mailto:auklandc@tncc.edu), 757.258.6592
- Fred Coeburn, Instructor, Mountain Empire Community College, [fcoeburn@mecc.edu](mailto:fcoeburn@mecc.edu) 276.523.2400 ext. 285



The Peninsula's Community College

# AIM Center

**Advanced Integrated Manufacturing Center**  
*The Peninsula's Manufacturing Partnership*



**Canon**



**SKF**

**LIEBHERR**



**Newport News Shipbuilding**  
A Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries



Developing multi-skilled technicians in advanced manufacturing for the New Virginia Economy

Collaborating in active community partnerships with industry, K-12, economic development and government

Solving the shortage of highly skilled workers for high-tech manufacturing operations

Enhancing the region's technical and economic competitive advantage

Promoting manufacturing as great careers with high wages and ongoing growth in new technologies

Incorporating new products and processes emerging from new advanced technologies – composites, additive manufacturing, robotics, mechatronics

Establishing a model for an innovative educational program focused on project-based learning, problem solving and critical thinking skills, expertise of industry's subject matter experts, and co-op experience

Providing a new associate degree and accelerated career studies certificates beginning Fall 2015

# Advanced Integrated Manufacturing (AIM) Multi-Skilled Technicians

Goal: Build a **dynamic partnership** with business and industry to develop multi-skilled technicians in advanced integrated manufacturing

- Teamwork skills developed by working in teams of engineers, researchers, scientists and technologists
- Broad skill base developed through academic program (50%) and rotation of co-op experience (50%)
- Emphasis on new technologies for jobs of the future: composites, additive manufacturing, sensors, robotics, mfg systems....
- Critical thinking and problem solving skills enhanced by developing real manufacturing projects using integrated technology areas
- Technicians/technologists that embrace change, capable of incorporating and utilizing new technologies as they are developed



# AIM Programs

## A.A.S. in Advanced Integrated Manufacturing

- First cohorts of 16 students Jan 2016 and Aug 2016
- Application and interview with industry partner participation
- Labs in Hastings Hall updated with \$500K in additional equipment
- Electronics, mechanical, instrumentation, composites, additive manufacturing

## Advanced Integrated Manufacturing Career Studies Certificate

- Prerequisite courses for application to AIM degree (16 credits)
- Precalculus, Electronics, CADD, Mechanical Technology, College English